

Message #46

I Samuel 19:8-17

Years ago a friend of mine was sitting in a Pastoral Theology class in seminary and the professor was telling the students what life would be like in ministry. My friend had already been a Pastor of two different churches so he was sitting in this class listening to this professor talk. Now you have to know my friend, he was not the kind of guy who would sit quietly and let things go for long so he shot up his hand and when the professor called on him he said in front of everyone, what you just said is not the way it really is. He said this is all nice ivory tower theory, but out there in the real world with real people, it is a different story.

There are things you cannot learn in a classroom, you can only learn them in life and you can only learn them when you are in war. God understands that point and we need to understand that point.

When God wants to train us and develop us, He will at times let us be surrounded by trouble. Real trouble and warfare is what God uses to develop His people and teach them to depend on Him. The strongest believers are believers who have stayed the course.

If ever you want to see an example of this, all we have to do is take an honest look at the life and training of David. David was God's choice for King. Yet before God raises him to the ultimate level, He trains him in warfare. He allowed David to go through things that would have crushed most people. God was sovereign in every bit of this and He was using the negative things to develop David into becoming a very strong man of God.

What we see here is this:

WHEN GOD DEVELOPS HIS PEOPLE TO A LEVEL OF GREAT HONOR, HE WILL TRAIN THEM BY ALLOWING THEM TO GO THROUGH VARIOUS INTIMIDATING ATTACKS, THREATS AND TRIALS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN THEIR FAITH AND TRUST IN HIM.

This is a very important part of the training for David's life. **This begins what we would call "the fugitive section of his life."** God is sovereign over every bit of David's life and He will use many different things to develop David. David is the one who is right with God and Saul is the one who is not right with God. As we pointed out last time, when David was experiencing the things here, he wrote Psalm 59.

Now keep in mind that God could have dropped Saul dead at any moment. But God was going to use Saul to actually help develop David. God will use Saul according to His sovereign plan to teach David that he can trust Him and that He will protect him. After he is done using Saul, God will kill him.

There are **four historical observations** we may make from this very unusual passage:

HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #1 – David was having tremendous success. 19:8

We do not know exactly how much time transpired between verse 7 and **verse 8**, but apparently some time had transpired.

David is having all kinds of success because God is giving David success. We may recall that Saul's plan was to have David go out and fight the Philistines so that they would kill him. Well David went out to fight the Philistines and instead of them killing David, the Philistines were being killed by him and running from him.

Saul's plan was to kill David via the Philistines, but that plan is backfiring. In fact, it will be this very fact that will cause Saul to determine he must kill David himself. Saul's jealousy is near the point of emotional insanity. As John Woodhouse said, "David's successes got under Saul's skin" (*I Samuel*, p. 372).

Now the real driving force behind this is the sovereignty of God. God is with David and He is not with Saul.

There is a point we want to see here. If you become jealous of someone, you need to quickly spot it and deal with it or it can destroy you. When sin surfaces you have two options:

- 1) Face it, confess it, turn from it and become pure.
- 2) Don't face it, don't confess it, and don't turn from it until it destroys you.

Now there are some very applicable points to make here:

1. When God is developing us, He will cause the plots and plans of the enemy to backfire.
He will protect us no matter what the goal.
2. When God is developing us, He will give us several different victories over enemies.
We will experience success no matter how intense the war.
3. When God is developing us, there will be hostile, jealous enemies who hate us and secretly plot and talk because they cannot stand what God is doing.

HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #2 – Satan used Saul to try and kill David. 19:9-10

The first thing we want to observe here is that the evil Spirit that came upon Saul was sent by God. We need to see God's sovereignty in this. God is the One who sanctions this evil Spirit to come upon Saul while he is sitting in his house, listening to David play the harp, while he has a spear in his hand. Here is Saul sitting in his own house with the Philistines on the run and he thinks he has to have a spear in his hand at all times.

I am a person who believes in doing what I need to do to protect myself and Mary. But when I am here at church surrounded by security guys who are much more skilled than me, I don't feel the need to have a gun in my hands. Saul lives in constant demonic paranoia. David's biggest danger in life wasn't the Philistines; it was a demonically crazed King Saul.

However, it is important to know that God is still sovereign and He is sovereignly protecting David.

Verse 10 says that Saul fired the spear at David, but David was faster than the spear and the spear stuck into the wall. Now a typical javelin thrower in Olympic competition can throw a javelin at 70 miles per hour. A major league baseball player can throw a baseball 60 feet 6 inches at 90-95 miles per hour. We know that athletes are able to get out of the way of a fastball, so David must have been very athletic to make this maneuver.

We may remember back in **verse 6**, that Saul promised that David would not be killed. Now here he is trying to kill him. Satanic people are liars. Those who are not right with God are not people of their word. They are liars.

What in the world is God doing here? Why would God send an evil Spirit on Saul so that he would try to kill David? **God is using this to teach David a very important lesson and that is no matter how close an enemy is, he cannot succeed in toppling His man because God looks out for His people.**

You may find yourself surrounded by enemies who don't like you, who plot against you and even want you gone. They may hate you and hate everything about you. The truth is, they cannot touch you and succeed against you because God won't let them. They will never topple you.

Satan's goal is to destroy a believer. But God's people need to learn they can trust God to protect them and deliver them. That is the lesson David is learning right here.

Verse 10 says, "David fled and escaped that night." David did not sit there and give Saul another shot. He got out of there. Even though God was looking out for David, David still had a responsibility to defend himself and not just set before Saul as a target. God expects His people to do what they can for their survival, knowing He is watching out for them.

David would leave Saul for the rest of Saul's life. The one man who had been so loyal to Saul would leave him forever. There does come a point when a servant of God says, that is enough, I am out of here.

HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #3 – Saul sends men to try to kill David. 19:11a

When the spear missed David, Saul came up with another plan. Saul sent some of his messengers to David's house and their assignment was to put David to death. What Saul wanted them to do was to watch the house all night and kill him the next morning.

We may ask what was it that David did to deserve this. He has not done one thing wrong. He fought a giant and beat him; he faithfully served Saul; he fought the Philistines and beat them; he was a humble servant who obeyed Saul and he considered himself to be honored to be married to Saul's daughter. So what exactly did he do?

The truth is he had done nothing wrong. He has only done what is right and good for Israel and Saul is so insanely jealous of David that he wants him dead.

When moments come our way in which people secretly plot against us, it is good to know they will not succeed. God won't let them. Stay faithful to God and God will protect you.

HISTORICAL OBSERVATION #4 – Michal is used by God to save David. **19:11b-17**

Jonathan, Saul's son, had warned David of Saul's evil intent and now Michal, Saul's daughter, does the same thing.

We may recall that when Saul gave his daughter Michal to David, he did so thinking she would be a snare to him and not a spy for David (18:21). **Here is a very important lesson to learn: when people are caught up in their wicked schemes, they cannot ever really trust their co-partners.**

The old saying is true there is no honor among thieves. For example, if someone secretly gets involved in immorality with someone else, they think no one will know. One cannot ever be certain of that. The other person may at some point tell the truth. Those who have had mafia connections live in constant suspicion of each other that someone might talk.

According to **verse 11**, somehow Michal became aware of the fact that Saul had sent messengers to kill him in the morning. When she learned of the plot, she warned David that if he did not get out of there that very night he would be killed. God was using Michal to help David stay one step ahead of his enemies. This teaches us a very important lesson: **when God wants us to know something He will reveal it at precisely the right moment so we may escape the enemy.**

Verse 12 says that Michal let David out through a window and he fled. She knew that the front door was being watched so she let him out through a window. **This begins the fugitive part of David's life.**

At the beginning, Michal was on David's side and was a good wife to him. She was truly used by God to help him and protect him. Later this relationship will not end happily ever after.

According to **verses 13-14**, Michal took it a step further and she made it look like David was sick in bed. Notice she took a household "idol" and laid it on the bed and covered it with a goat's hair quilt and then covered that with clothes so it looked like David was lying there sick.

The word "idol" is teraphim, and it refers to a large idol that was obviously in the house.

It is interesting that Josephus and the Septuagint claim that there was also a goat's liver that was placed here (*Josephus, Complete Works*, p. 137). Apparently a goat's liver beats and moves for a while after it has been removed from a goat, making it look like the person is breathing.

Now what in the world is an idol doing in the resident area of the daughter of the king of Israel? This shows you how corrupt Saul was. This is why he referred to God as being Samuel's God and not his own God.

According to **verse 14**, when Saul sent messengers to Michal, she said David was sick in bed. Now there are some strict legalistic commentators who actually condemn Michal for lying here. They cite Leviticus 19:11 as a verse that says we are not to deal falsely or lie to each other.

However, there are some things that would lead us to the conclusion that this is exactly what God would have her do.

For example, Rahab ends up a hero in the faith chapter of Hebrews and ends up in the lineage line of Jesus Christ because of her faithful deception in protecting the spies of Israel (Heb. 11:31). In fact, she too let them down out of a window.

The one doing the evil here is not Michal, it is Saul. Saul is the one who is Satanically plotting and planning to kill David. Michal was not about to say, "Well I just let him out of the window and he is taking this route out so if you hurry you can catch him."

No person in their right mind would do that. When the Nazi's came to Corrie Ten Boom's parents should they have said we are hiding the Jews under our stairs? Do you think Oscar Schindler should have told Hitler, I am not really making anything here; I am using this factory as a cover to help Jews escape?

What about the Apostle Paul in Damascus? Should he have turned himself in and not been let down in a basket so he could get away (Acts 11:32-33)?

If someone breaks into your home and wants to rape and kill your children and they were hiding somewhere, would you tell the people where they were hiding? No way, use your brain.

Michal should be praised here for her actions and not condemned.

This bought David some time. The servant went back to Saul and told him that David was sick. According to **verse 15**, Saul said well bring him here on his sick bed and I will kill him.

According to **verse 16**, when Saul's servants went back to get David, they discovered it had been a decoy. They realized they had been fooled.

According to **verse 17**, Saul asked his daughter Michal why did you deceive me and let my enemy get away.

That would have been something that really would have angered Saul. He had already lost Jonathan's allegiance and now he was in danger of losing his daughter's allegiance. Both were taking David's side.

Before we move on, let's set the record straight here. David was not Saul's enemy. Saul was David's enemy. People who are demonic and satanic reverse the facts. They turn bad into good and good into bad. They invent things that are not true.

Saul is very unstable and is demonic. So he questions Michal and Michal says at the end of **verse 17** that the reason she let David go is because he threatened to kill her.

This is not true. She is not lying here to protect David; she is lying about David to protect herself.

Now here is the point of all of this. What is going on? The good guy is on the run and the evil Satanic guy is making up lies and causing him to run and God is sovereign over every bit of this. So what is going on?

God is developing David. God is developing His man. God is molding David. He is going to show David that he cannot be toppled because He is protecting him.

In order for David to learn this, he cannot sit in a seminary classroom and listen to an ivory tower lecture from a professor. He needed to experience this first hand and that is exactly why God caused it.

Not matter what you are experiencing, remember your God is sovereign.